

## **INTERCONNECTION AND RECIPROCAL COMPENSATION AGREEMENT**

This Interconnection and Reciprocal Compensation Agreement for the exchange of Telecommunications Traffic between carriers ("Agreement") is effective as of the 1<sup>st</sup> day of July, 2007 (the "Effective Date"), by and between Richland-Grant Telephone Cooperative, Inc. ("Richland-Grant") and Tech Com, Inc. ("Tech Com"), (collectively "RGTC"), a Wisconsin Corporation, with its principal office at 202 North East Street, P.O. Box 67, Blue River, Wisconsin 53518 and United States Cellular Corporation ("USCC"), a Delaware corporation, with its principal office at 8410 West Bryn Mawr, Chicago, IL 60631-3486. RGTC and USCC are referred to herein individually as "Party" and collectively as the "Parties".

WHEREAS, Richland-Grant and Tech Com are Local Exchange Carriers ("LECs") in the State of Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, USCC is a Commercial Mobile Radio Services ("CMRS") provider licensed by the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC"); and

WHEREAS, Sections 251 and 252 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended by the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (the "Act"), have specific standards and procedures for Interconnection and Reciprocal Compensation, and the Parties intend that this Agreement meets these standards and procedures; and

WHEREAS, the Parties wish to establish a Reciprocal Compensation Interconnection arrangement consistent with 47 U.S.C. 251 (b)(5); and

WHEREAS, the Parties desire to interconnect their respective LEC and CMRS network facilities for the purpose of delivery of specific traffic for Transport and Termination on the other Party's network; and

WHEREAS, the Parties are entering into this Agreement to set forth the respective obligations and the terms and conditions under which they will interconnect their networks and provide other services as set forth herein; and

WHEREAS, the Parties wish to make arrangements for the mutual Transport and Termination of Telecommunications Traffic, which will supersede and replace any previous arrangements between the Parties and/or their predecessors for the mutual Transport and Termination of Telecommunications Traffic.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual provisions contained herein and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, RGTC and USCC hereby agree as follows:

## **1.0 DEFINITIONS**

As used in this Agreement, the following terms shall have the meanings specified below in this Section. Any term used in this Agreement that is not specifically defined shall have the meaning ascribed to such term in the Communications Act of 1934, as amended. If no specific meaning exists for a specific term used in this Agreement, then normal usage in the Telecommunications industry shall apply.

- 1.1** “Act” means the Communications Act of 1934, as amended by the Telecommunications Act of 1996, and as from time-to-time interpreted in the duly authorized rules and regulations of the FCC.
- 1.2** “Affiliate” is As Defined in the Act.
- 1.3** “As Defined in the Act” means as specifically defined in the Act.
- 1.4** “Applicable Law” means all laws, statutes, common law, regulations, ordinances, codes, rules, guidelines, orders, permits, and approvals of any government authority, which apply or relate to the subject of this Agreement.
- 1.5** “CLLI Codes” means Common Language Location Identifier Codes.
- 1.6** “Commercial Mobile Radio Services” (CMRS) as defined in 47 C.F.R. 20.3.
- 1.7** “Commission” means the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin.
- 1.8** “Common Channel Signaling” (CCS) is a high-speed specialized packet-switched communications network that is separate (out-of-band) from the public packet-switched and message networks. CCS carries addressed signaling messages for individual Trunk circuits and/or database-related services between Signaling Points in the CCS network using SS7 signaling protocol.
- 1.9** “DS-1” is a telecommunications service carried at digital signal rate of 1.544 Mbps.
- 1.10** “DS-3” is a telecommunications service carried at digital signal rate of 44.736 Mbps.
- 1.11** “Effective Date” means the date contained in the first paragraph of the Agreement.
- 1.12** “End Office Switch” means a LEC’s Class 5 switching system, or a MSC or MTSO of a CMRS, where telephone loops used to provide end user Exchange Service are terminated.
- 1.13** “Enhanced Service Provider (ESP)/ Information Service Provider (ISP) is any entity, including but not limited to an Internet Service Provider, that provides information services.
- 1.14** “Exchange Access Service”, as used in this Agreement, shall mean the offering of access to Telephone Exchange Services or facilities for the purpose of the origination or

Termination of telephone toll services, as defined by the various state and federal regulatory bodies.

- 1.15** “Exchange Service” means all basic access line services, or any other services offered to end users which provide end users with a telephonic connection to, and a unique telephone number address on, the Public Switched Telecommunications Network (“PSTN”), and which enable such end users to place or receive calls to all other stations on the PSTN.
- 1.16** “FCC” means the Federal Communications Commission.
- 1.17** “Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier” (“ILEC”) is As Defined in the Act.
- 1.18** “Information Service” is As Defined in the Act.
- 1.19** “ISP Traffic” is traffic originated by an end user of one Party and delivered to the other Party for switching to an Information Service Provider (ISP).
- 1.20** “Interconnection” has the meaning given the term in the Act and refers to the physical connection of separate pieces of equipment, facilities, or platforms between or within networks for the purpose of transmission and routing of Telecommunications Traffic, and Exchange Access Service.
- 1.21** “Interexchange Carrier (IXC)” is a telecommunications service provider authorized by the FCC to provide interstate long distance communication services between LATAs and is authorized by the State to provide inter- and/or intraLATA long distance communications services within the State.
- 1.22** “InterLata Service” means telecommunications between a point located in a Local Access and Transport Area and a point located outside such area.
- 1.23** “InterMTA Traffic” is: (a) traffic originated by a CMRS end user of USCC in an MTA and terminated to an end user of RGTC in another MTA; and (b) traffic originated by an end user of RGTC in one MTA and terminated to an end user of USCC in another MTA.
- 1.24** “IntraLata Service” means telecommunications within the same Local Access and Transport Area.
- 1.25** “IntraLATA Toll Traffic” means all IntraLATA calls that are not defined as Telecommunications Traffic.
- 1.26** “Local Access and Transport Area (LATA)” is a geographic area for the provision and administration of communications service, i.e., intraLATA or interLATA.
- 1.27** “Local Exchange Carrier (LEC)” is any company certified by the Commission to provide local exchange Telecommunications service.

- 1.28** “Local Exchange Routing Guide (LERG)” is the Telcordia Technologies reference customarily used to identify NPA-NXX routing and homing information, as well as network element and equipment designation.
- 1.29** “Mandatory Local Calling Scope” is an arrangement that provides LEC end users a local calling scope and Extended Area Service (EAS) or Extended Community Calling (ECC) beyond their basic exchange service area.
- 1.30** “Mbps” means million bits per second.
- 1.31** “Mid-Span Meet” is an Interconnection architecture whereby two carriers’ transmission facilities meet at a mutually agreed-upon POI.
- 1.32** “MSC or MTSO” is the Mobile Switching Center or Mobile Telecommunications Switching Office used by a CMRS carrier in performing originating and terminating functions for calls to or from end users of the CMRS carrier.
- 1.33** “MTA” means Major Trading Area as defined by the FCC rules, Part 24.202(a)
- 1.34** “NPA” or the “Number Plan Area” also referred to as an “area code” refers to the three digit code which precedes the NXX in a dialing sequence and identifies the general calling area within the North American Numbering Plan scope to which a call is to be routed (i.e., NPA/NXX-XXXX).
- 1.35** “NXX” means the three-digit code that appears as the first three digits of a seven-digit telephone number within a valid area code (i.e., an NXX other than a special 500, 600, 700, 800 or 900 code).
- 1.36** “Party” means either RGTC or USCC, and “Parties” means RGTC and USCC.
- 1.37** “Point of Interconnection (POI)” means the interconnection point, as referenced in 47CFR 51.701(c), between the networks of two carriers utilized for the transmission of traffic subject to section 251(b)(5) of the Act. The Point of Interconnection for this Agreement is as provided in Appendix A.I.b.
- 1.38** “Rate Center” means the specific geographic point (“Vertical and Horizontal” or “V & H” coordinates) and corresponding geographic area which are associated with one or more particular NPA-NXX codes which have been assigned to a LEC for its provision of basic local exchange telecommunications services. The “rate center area” is the exclusive geographic area within which the LEC provides basic local exchange telecommunications service bearing the particular NPA-NXX designations associated with the specific Rate Center. The use by a CMRS licensee of an NPA-NXX for telephone numbers assigned to its mobile CMRS end users does not mean that a mobile end user obtains local exchange service in the geographic area of the Rate Center associated with the specific NPA-NXX. The designation of rate center V&H coordinates for the NPA-NXX numbers assigned to mobile CMRS end users shall not create legal or regulatory obligations for either Party that do not otherwise exist.

- 1.39** “Reciprocal Compensation” means an arrangement between two carriers in which each carrier receives compensation from the other carrier for the Transport and Termination on each carrier’s network of Telecommunications Traffic that originates from the network facilities of the other carrier.
- 1.40** “Signaling System 7 (SS7)” is the signaling protocol of the CCS network based upon American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standards.
- 1.41** Intentionally Left Blank.
- 1.42** “Tandem” denotes a Class 4 switching center used to switch a call between and among two End Office Switches, a MTSO or an End Office Switch and an equivalent facility provided by a third party.
- 1.43** “Telecommunications” is As Defined in the Act.
- 1.44** “Telecommunications Carrier” is As Defined in the Act.
- 1.45** “Telecommunications Traffic”, consistent with 47CFR 51.701(b)(2), means two-way telecommunications between end users of RGTC and USCC that at the beginning of the call originates and terminates within the same MTA. A Party that originates Telecommunications Traffic has the right under this Agreement to terminate the traffic on the other Party’s network as Telecommunications Traffic.
- 1.46** “Termination” means the switching of Telecommunications Traffic at the terminating carrier’s End Office Switch, or equivalent facility, and delivery of such traffic to the called Party’s end user.
- 1.47** “Transiting Traffic or Tandem Transiting Traffic” means traffic that originates on one party’s network, “transits” a third party’s network and/or Tandem substantially unchanged, and Terminates on another party’s network. RGTC will not send any traffic to USCC for USCC to transit to a third party.
- 1.48** “Transport” is the transmission and any necessary Tandem switching of Telecommunications Traffic subject to Section 251(b)(5) of the Act from the Point of Interconnection between the Parties to the terminating carrier’s End Office Switch, or equivalent facility provided by a carrier other than an incumbent LEC that directly serves the called party.
- 1.49** “Trunk” means a single transmission channel providing a direct physical and functional Interconnection between two switching centers.
- 1.50** “Type-2 Service”, often referred to as a Trunk side connection, is a service that involves interconnection to an End Office Switch (Type-2B) or Tandem (Type-2A).

## **2.0 INTERPRETATION AND CONSTRUCTION**

**2.1** All references to Sections and Appendices are references to Sections of and Appendices to this Agreement unless the context shall otherwise require. The headings of the Sections are inserted for the convenience of references only and are not intended to be a part of or to affect the meaning of this Agreement.

**2.2** The Parties acknowledge that some of the services, facilities or arrangements described herein reference the terms of federal or state tariffs of the Parties. Each Party hereby incorporates by reference those provisions of any tariff that governs any terms specified in this Agreement. If any provision contained in this main body of the Agreement and any Appendix hereto cannot be reasonably construed or interpreted to avoid conflict, the provision contained in this main body of this Agreement shall prevail. If any provisions of this Agreement and an applicable tariff cannot be reasonably construed or interpreted to avoid conflict, the Parties agree that the provision contained in this Agreement including Appendices shall prevail. This Agreement, including Appendices, supersedes any prior agreements between the Parties.

### **3.0 SCOPE OF AGREEMENT**

**3.1** This Agreement shall cover the Transport and Termination of Telecommunications Traffic and Tandem Transiting Traffic between RGTC's network in Wisconsin and the CMRS network of USCC. All other traffic is governed by applicable tariff and/or contract, and is not covered by this Agreement. This Agreement does not obligate either Party to provide arrangements not specifically provided for herein.

**3.2** This Agreement sets forth the terms, conditions, and rates under which the Parties agree to Interconnect the CMRS network of USCC and the network of RGTC for purposes of exchanging Telecommunications Traffic, provided that the service provided by USCC to its end user is a two-way Mobile Service as defined in 47 U.S.C. 153(27). Traffic associated with paging service or fixed wireless service of USCC is specifically excluded from this Agreement.

**3.3** USCC represents that it is a CMRS provider of Telecommunications services to subscribers in MTA No.20 (Milwaukee), and serves end users with an Operating Company Number (OCN) of 6274 in the state of Wisconsin.

**3.4** The Parties agree that all Telecommunications Traffic that is (a) originated by a USCC end user and terminates to a RGTC end user, or (b) originated by a RGTC end user and terminates to a USCC end user with a telephone number in an NPA-NXX assigned to a Rate Center within the RGTC end user's Mandatory Local Calling Scope, shall be exchanged via the facilities described in Section 4.0 and Appendix A of this Agreement.

**3.5** This Agreement provides for the Transport and Termination of traffic including:

**3.5.1** USCC to RGTC Telecommunications Traffic as provided in Section 3.4 (a) above, that is:

a. originated on the CMRS network of USCC;

- b. delivered to the RGTC network over the Interconnection Facilities pursuant to this Agreement; and
- c. terminated at an RGTC end user.

**3.5.2** USCC to RGTC Tandem Transiting Traffic that is:

- a. originated on the CMRS network of USCC;
- b. delivered to the RGTC network over the Interconnection Facilities pursuant to this Agreement; and
- c. terminated to a third party network, listed in Appendix C.

**3.5.3** RGTC to USCC Telecommunications Traffic as provided in Section 3.4 (b) above, that is:

- a. originated on the ILEC network of RGTC;
- b. delivered to USCC over the Interconnection Facilities pursuant to this Agreement; and
- c. terminated on the CMRS network of USCC.

**3.5.4** RGTC to USCC Tandem Transiting Traffic that is:

- a. originated on a third party network listed in Appendix C.
- b. delivered to USCC over the Interconnection Facilities pursuant to this Agreement; and
- c. terminated on the CMRS network of USCC.

**3.5.5** Telecommunication Traffic delivered through indirect Interconnection as provided in Section 4.4.

**3.5.6** Telecommunications Traffic that is routed over an IXC Trunk group between the Parties as provided in section 4.2.4.

**3.6** This Agreement does not obligate either Party to provide arrangements not specifically provided for herein. This Agreement has no effect on the definition of end user services that either Party offers to its end users, the services either Party chooses to offer to its respective end users, the rate levels or rate structures that either Party charges its end users for services, or the manner in which either Party provisions or terminates the services either Party provides to its respective end users.

**3.7** Each Party acknowledges its duty, in accordance with 47 U.S.C 251 (a), to Interconnect directly or indirectly with the facilities and equipment of other Telecommunications Carriers. If either Party desires to directly Interconnect its network to the network of the other Party, the Parties agree to allow such direct Interconnection on terms, conditions, and rates no less favorable than the Party provides to other Telecommunications Carriers. Each Party reserves its right to route its end user traffic to the other Party in the most efficient and cost effective manner as provided in this Agreement.

## **4.0 SERVICE AGREEMENT**

**4.1 Description of Arrangements.** This Agreement provides for the Interconnection arrangements for Transport and Termination of Telecommunications Traffic between the networks of RGTC and USCC specified in this Section. Routing of traffic shall be as described in this Section, except that, alternatives may be employed in the event of emergency or temporary equipment failure, as agreed by the Parties.

**4.1.1** The Parties agree to establish a single Point of Interconnection as described in Appendix A for the direct exchange of Telecommunications Traffic. The POI shall serve as the demarcation point for both Parties operational and financial responsibility,

**4.2 Type-2A Interconnection at Blue River.** A Type-2A involves Trunk side connections to the Richland-Grant Blue River Tandem switch. Type-2A is a two-way service for originating and terminating traffic between Parties' respective networks.

**4.2.1** Within thirty (30) days after execution of this Agreement, USCC shall provision a final two-way Type-2A Interconnection which may be used to deliver Telecommunications Traffic to RGTC's NPA-NXXs as identified in the LERG and third party Tandem Transiting Traffic to networks which are associated with End Office Switches that subtend at the Blue River Tandem. The subject third party networks are identified in Appendix C and their associated NPA-NXXs are identified in the LERG.

**4.2.2** The Type-2A Interconnection as described in this Section, shall be used by RGTC to deliver Telecommunications Traffic that is originated by a RGTC end user and terminates to a USCC end user with a telephone number in an NPA-NXX assigned to a Rate Center within the RGTC end users' Mandatory Local Calling Scope and third party Tandem Transiting Traffic from networks that are subtended at the Blue River Tandem as identified in Appendix C..

**4.2.3** Except to the extent precluded by nondiscrimination and/or dialing parity principles, or as otherwise noted above, the designation of Rate Center V&H coordinates associated with network numbers assigned to USCC's end users shall not affect or determine: (i) the services offered by RGTC or USCC, (ii) the services provided to end users by either Party; (iii) the rate structure applied to services provided to end users by either Party; or (iv) the rates charged to end users by either Party for the services either Party provides to its end users. The designation of rate center V&H coordinates for the NPA-NXX numbers assigned to mobile CMRS end users shall not create legal or regulatory obligations for either Party that do not otherwise exist. RGTC will provide dialing parity to USCC's NPA-NXX's in RGTC's Mandatory Local Calling Scope, in accordance with the requirements of Section 251(b)(3) of the Act.

**4.2.4** For Telecommunications Traffic routed by USCC over an IXC Trunk group between the Parties and billed by RGTC to the IXC at the applicable access



rates, as provided in Appendix B. Section V., no Reciprocal Compensation will be applicable.

**4.3 Type-2B Interconnection.** Type-2B involves Trunk side connection to a RGTC End Office Switch. Type-2B facilities provide the capability to access only RGTC subscribers served by that End Office Switch or the MSC, as applicable.

**4.4 Indirect Interconnection.** To the extent that USCC and a third party Tandem switch service provider have entered into or may enter into arrangements for the delivery of USCC Telecommunications Traffic to RGTC for Termination to RGTC end users or a third party network, (i.e., traffic that is not covered elsewhere in this Agreement) RGTC will accept this traffic subject to the compensation arrangements as provided in Appendix B. RGTC will not send Telecommunications Traffic to USCC indirectly other than as provided in Section 4.2 above unless mutually agreed to by the Parties. The Parties agree the originating Party shall pay the transiting fees.

**4.5** The Parties shall jointly engineer and configure Trunks over the physical Interconnection Facilities as described in Appendix A I. As follows:

**4.5.1** USCC shall configure an initial two-way Trunk group as a direct transmission path between the two Parties. Upon dispute, and the Parties are unable to resolve the dispute as provided in Section 14.1, either Party can request one-way facilities with each Party paying the applicable non-recurring charge.

**4.5.2** If the traffic volumes between USCC and RGTC meet the centum call seconds equivalent of one DS-1 (i.e. 500 busy hour centum call seconds), eight times within a 30 day billing cycle, USCC shall provision additional Trunks to the Trunk group established in Section 4.2.

**4.5.3** USCC shall provision within industry standards additional Trunks if necessary, as provided in Section 4.5.2. Neither Party can require the other Party to establish unnecessary Trunks.

**4.5.4** The network switches of both Parties involved in the provision of Telecommunications Traffic shall be managed in accordance with the applicable industry/Telcordia standards.

**4.5.5** Based on the physical architecture and compensation arrangements that are set forth in this Agreement, each Party shall be responsible for establishing and maintaining facilities and logical Trunking on its side of the POI to provide for the Transport and Termination of Telecommunications Traffic and Tandem Transiting Traffic consistent with the standards set forth in this Agreement.

#### **4.6 Common Channel Signaling**

**4.6.1 Service Description.** The Parties will provide Common Channel Signaling (CCS) to one another via Signaling System 7 (SS7) network Interconnection, in accordance with prevailing industry standards. Use of a third party provider

of SS7 trunks is permitted. Each Party is responsible for its own SS7 signaling and, therefore, neither Party will bill the other SS7 signaling charges.

- 4.6.2** Signaling Parameters. All SS7 signaling parameters will be provided in conjunction with traffic exchange Trunk groups, where and as available. These parameters include Automatic Number Identification (ANI), Calling Party Number (CPN), Privacy Indicator, calling party category information, originating line information, such as Carrier Information Parameter (CIP), wherever such information is needed for call routing, recording, or billing.

## **5.0 COMPENSATION ARRANGEMENTS**

### **5.1 Telecommunications Traffic**

- 5.1.1** Reciprocal Compensation is applicable for Transport and Termination of Telecommunications Traffic as defined in Section 1.45 and is related to the exchange of traffic described in Section 4.0, as applicable. For the purposes of billing compensation for Telecommunications Traffic, billed minutes will be based upon actual usage recorded by RGTC, with the exception of traffic described in Section 4.4, where records/reports provided by the transiting carrier shall be the basis for billing if actual usage records are not available. Measured usage begins when the terminating recording switch receives answer supervision from the called end user and ends when the terminating recording switch receives or sends disconnect (release message) supervision, whichever comes first. The measured usage is aggregated at the end of the measurement cycle and rounded to a whole minute. Billing for Telecommunications Traffic shall be based on the aggregated measured usage less traffic that is not Telecommunications Traffic.
- 5.1.2** Subject to the exceptions described in Sections 5.1.3 below, each Party shall pay the other Party for Transport and Termination of Telecommunications Traffic that either Party delivers to the other Party's network pursuant to the provisions of this Agreement. The charges and rates for Termination of Telecommunications Traffic shall be at the rates set forth in Appendix B of this Agreement. These charges and rates do not apply to any other types of traffic or for traffic delivered in any other areas other than those set forth in this Agreement as described in Appendix B.
- 5.1.3** Neither Party will provide any compensation to the other Party for traffic associated with one-way paging services, ISP traffic, or video services. If the Telecommunications Traffic split reaches 55/45 in either direction, the Parties agree to go to a bill and keep arrangement whereby neither Party renders a bill to the other Party for the termination of Telecommunications Traffic.
- 5.1.4** USCC does not currently provide fixed wireless services in the RGTC exchange boundaries or terminate fixed wireless service to RGTC. USCC agrees that it will provide RGTC prior written notice of its intent to launch fixed wireless services within the RGTC exchange boundaries or terminate fixed wireless service to RGTC. Upon RGTC receipt of such notice, the

Parties agree to negotiate an appropriate agreement or an amendment to this Agreement, which will address the exchange of such traffic. In the event that the Parties cannot reach an agreement on the amendment, the dispute will be resolved pursuant to the provisions of Section 14.0. For purposes of this Agreement, fixed wireless services are services provided by operation of wireless devices or systems in fixed locations such as a resident or business location.

**5.2 Interconnection Facilities.** USCC shall arrange for and maintain Type-2A Interconnection Facilities, as provided in Appendix A, between the Richland-Grant Blue River Tandem in Blue River Wisconsin, and the USCC MSC. Any nonrecurring and recurring cost of the two-way Interconnection Facilities between the Blue River exchange boundary and the USCC MSC will be the responsibility of USCC. Any non-recurring and recurring monthly costs of the two-way Interconnection Facilities between the Blue River Tandem in Blue River Wisconsin and the Blue River exchange boundary will be reduced by an agreed upon percentage that represents either the estimated percentage or the actual percentage of Telecommunications Traffic originated by RGTC and Tandem Transiting Traffic that is terminated to USCC. This percentage is referred to as the Shared Facilities Factor and is set forth in Appendix A. The Parties will review this factor on a periodic basis and, if warranted by the actual usage, revise this factor appropriately.

**5.3 Non-Recurring Charges.** RGTC will charge USCC non-recurring fees as set forth in Appendix B. Section V.

**5.4 Traffic Distribution.** The Parties intend to utilize actual and auditable measurement to identify the quantity of all Telecommunications Traffic, pursuant to this Agreement. In the event there is insufficient representative and verifiable data to identify the actual InterMTA Traffic exchanged between the Parties to use in preparation of the monthly billing statement, the Parties agree to apply a percent InterMTA Traffic Factor as stated in Appendix B Section IV. The Parties agree that the InterMTA Traffic Factors set forth in Appendix B for the application of originating and terminating access charges to be billed by RGTC, pursuant to this Agreement may not be amended for a period of time not less than (12) twelve months from the Effective Date. At the request of either Party thereafter, the factors may be mutually adjusted based on actual traffic studies to determine the respective percentages of Telecommunications Traffic and InterMTA Traffic. The requesting Party will provide supporting documentation, including but not limited to, detailed traffic studies to the other Party before the InterMTA factor will be adjusted. In the event of a dispute regarding the adjustment, if any to the factors, the dispute will be resolved to the provision of Section 14. Each Party agrees to provide available traffic data in conjunction with any adjustment.

**5.5 Transiting Traffic.** Tandem Transiting Traffic charges as described in Appendix B III. is applicable for all traffic Transiting the Tandem switch which originates from or terminates to a third party. For purpose of billing compensation for Tandem switch traffic, all minutes will be based upon actual usage recorded by RGTC, unless estimates are mutually agreed to by the Parties. The Parties agree the originating Party shall pay the transit fees.

**5.6 InterMTA Traffic Compensation.** Parties agree that traffic rated and recorded as Telecommunications Traffic, may originate and terminate in different MTAs and would

be subject to Switched Access Compensation. Switched Access Compensation is applicable to the traffic delivered by USCC to RGTC that originates and terminates in different MTAs, to the extent that such traffic is not handed off to an IXC. USCC shall compensate RGTC at ILEC's applicable Switched Access rates for all such traffic.

## **6.0 NOTICE OF CHANGES**

**6.1** If a Party makes a change in its network which it believes will materially affect the interoperability of its network with the other Party, the Party making the change shall provide at least ninety (90) days advance written notice of such change to the other Party.

## **7.0 GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES**

**7.1** The Parties shall jointly develop a schedule for promptly implementing all requirements of this Agreement ("Implementation Schedule"). Both RGTC and USCC shall use commercially reasonable efforts to comply with the Implementation Schedule.

**7.2** The Parties shall exchange good faith, non-binding technical descriptions and forecasts of their originating traffic in sufficient detail necessary to establish the interconnections required to assure traffic Termination.

**7.3** Sixty (60) days prior to requesting additional two-way direct Trunk(s) or one-way Trunk(s) as provided in Section 4.5.1, each Party will provide to the other Party a six (6) month, non-binding forecast of its Trunking requirements. Additional forecasting of Trunking requirements will be provided by USCC to RGTC as mutually agreed to by the Parties. The Parties agree that each forecast provided under this Section shall be deemed "Proprietary Information".

**7.4** Each Party is individually responsible for (i) providing facilities within its network which are necessary for routing, transporting, measuring and billing traffic from the other Party's network (ii) delivering such traffic to the other Party's network in a mutually acceptable format and (iii) terminating the traffic it receives in that mutually acceptable format to the proper address on its network. Each Party is solely responsible for its participation in and compliance with national network plans, including The National Network Security Plan and The Emergency Preparedness Plan.

**7.5** Neither Party shall use any of the Services provided in this Agreement in any manner that prevents other persons from using their service or destroys the normal quality of service to other carriers or to either Party's end users, and subject to notice and a reasonable opportunity of the offending Party to cure any violation, either Party may discontinue or refuse service if the other Party violates this provision.

**7.6** The characteristics and methods of operation of any circuits, facilities or equipment of one Party connected with the circuits, facilities or equipment of the other Party shall not be allowed to interfere with or impair service over any circuits, facilities or equipment of the other Party, its Affiliate companies, or its connecting and concurring carriers involved in its services; or cause damage to the other Party's circuits, facilities or equipment, impair the privacy of any communications carried over the circuits, facilities or equipment or

create hazards to the employees of the other Party, its Affiliate companies, or its connecting and concurring carriers or the public.

**7.7** If such characteristics or methods of operation are not in accordance with the preceding paragraph, either Party will notify the other Party that temporary discontinuance of the circuit, facility or equipment may be required; however, when prior notice is not practicable, either Party may forthwith temporarily discontinue the use of a circuit, facility or equipment if such action is reasonable under the circumstance. In such case of temporary discontinuance, either Party will notify the other Party immediately by telephone and provide the other Party with the opportunity to correct the condition that gave rise to the temporary discontinuance. No allowance for interruption will be applicable.

**7.8** The exchange of traffic may be temporarily discontinued by a Party upon 30-days written notice to the other Party for repeated or willful violation of or refusal to comply with any of the provisions of this Agreement by such other Party.

**7.9** Each Party is solely responsible for the services it provides to its customers and to other Telecommunications Carriers.

**7.10** Each Party is responsible for administering NXX codes assigned to it.

**7.11** Each Party is responsible for obtaining Local Exchange Routing Guide ("LERG") listings of Common Language Location Identifier (CLLI) codes assigned to its switches.

**7.12** Each Party shall be responsible for its own independent connections to the 911/E911 network.

**7.13** Each Party shall use the LERG published by Telcordia, or its successor, for obtaining route information and shall provide all required information to Telcordia for maintaining the LERG in a timely manner.

**7.14** RGTC shall program and routinely update its Tandem, End Office Switches and network systems to recognize and route traffic to NXX codes assigned to USCC. USCC shall do the same with respect to its network for recognizing and routing traffic to RGTC's NXX codes. Except as mutually agreed or as otherwise expressly defined in this Agreement, neither Party shall impose any fees or charges on the other Party for such activities.

**7.15** At all times during the term of this Agreement, each Party shall keep and maintain in force at its own expense all insurance required by law (e.g., workers' compensation insurance) as well as general liability insurance for personal injury or death to any one person, property damage resulting from any one incident, automobile liability with coverage for bodily injury and property damage. Upon request from the other Party, each Party shall provide to the other Party evidence of such insurance (which may be provided through a program of self-insurance).

## **8.0 EFFECTIVE DATE, TERM, AND TERMINATION**

**8.1** The initial term of this Agreement shall be from the Effective Date through June 30, 2009 and shall then automatically renew on a year-to-year basis. The Agreement may be terminated by either Party at the end of the initial term or any renewal term by providing (60) sixty days advance written notice of termination to the other Party. In the event such notice of termination is provided and either Party requests in good faith to renegotiate a successor agreement under the provisions of the Act, this Agreement shall remain in effect (i) until this Agreement has been replaced by a new agreement, or (ii) for up to one hundred eighty (180) calendar days following the date of termination, whichever is earlier.

**8.2** Upon termination or expiration of this Agreement in accordance with this Section:

- (a) each Party shall comply immediately with its obligations as set forth above in Section 8.1.
- (b) each Party shall promptly pay all undisputed amounts (including any late payment charges) owed under this Agreement.
- (c) each Party's indemnification obligations shall survive termination or expiration of this Agreement.

**8.3** The arrangements pursuant to this Agreement including the provision of services or facilities shall immediately terminate upon the suspension, revocation or termination of either Party's authority to provide services. For RGTC, authority involves the provision of Exchange Service or Exchange Access Service. For USCC, authority involves the provision of CMRS service under license from the Federal Communications Commission.

**8.4** The services and facilities arrangements pursuant to this Agreement may be terminated by either Party upon not less than thirty (30) days written notice to the nonpaying Party for failure to pay undisputed amounts on the dates or at the times specified for the facilities and services furnished pursuant to this Agreement, and the nonpaying Party does not pay undisputed amounts within thirty (30) days of receipt of the written notice thereof.

**8.5** A Party may terminate this Agreement in whole or in part in the event of a default by the other Party, provided however, that the non-defaulting Party notifies the defaulting Party in writing of the alleged default and the defaulting Party does not cure the default within thirty (30) calendar days of receipt of written notice thereof. Default is defined to include:

- a) A Party's insolvency or the initiation of bankruptcy or receivership proceedings by or against the Party; or
- b) A Party's refusal or failure in any material respect properly to perform its obligations under this Agreement, or the violation of any of the material terms and conditions of this Agreement.

## **9.0 CANCELLATION CHARGES**

**9.1** Except as provided herein, no cancellation charges shall apply.

## **10.0 INDEMNIFICATION**

**10.1 General Indemnity Rights.** Each Party (the “Indemnifying Party”) will defend and indemnify the other Party, its officers, directors, employees and permitted assignees (collectively, the “Indemnified Party”) and hold such Indemnified Party harmless against:

**10.1.1** Any loss to a third person arising out of the gross negligence or willful misconduct (“Fault”) of such Indemnifying Party or the Fault of its employees, agents and subcontractors; provided however, that (1) with respect to employees or agents of the Indemnifying Party, such Fault occurs while performing within the scope of their employment, (2) with respect to subcontractors of the Indemnifying Party, such Fault occurs in the course of the subcontractor performing duties under its subcontract with the Indemnifying Party, and (3) with respect to the Fault of employees or agents of such subcontractor, such Fault occurs while performing within the scope of their employment by the subcontractor with respect to such duties of the subcontractor under the subcontract.

**10.1.2** Any claims for libel, slander, infringement of copyright, or other intellectual property rights, arising from the material transmitted over the Indemnified Party’s facilities arising from the Indemnifying Party’s own communications or the communications of such Indemnifying Party’s end users.

**10.1.3** Any claims for infringement of patents arising from combining the Indemnified Party’s facilities or services with or the using of the Indemnified Party’s services or facilities in connection with, facilities of the Indemnifying Party.

**10.1.4** Notwithstanding this indemnification provision or any other provision in the Agreement, neither Party, nor its parent, subsidiaries, affiliates, agents, servants, or employees, shall be liable to the other for Consequential Damages (as defined in Section 11.3)

**10.2 Indemnification Procedures.** Whenever a claim for indemnification arises under this Section, the relevant Indemnified Party, as appropriate, will promptly notify the Indemnifying Party and request the Indemnifying Party to defend the claim. Failure to so notify the Indemnifying Party will not relieve the Indemnifying Party of any liability that the Indemnifying Party might have, except to the extent that such failure prejudices the Indemnifying Party’s ability to defend such claim or loss. The Indemnifying Party will have the right to defend against such liability or assertion in which event the Indemnifying Party will give written notice to the Indemnified Party of acceptance of the defense of such claim or loss and the identity of counsel selected by the Indemnifying Party. Until the Indemnifying Party provides such written notice of acceptance of the defense of such claim or loss, the Indemnified Party will defend such claim or loss, at the expense of the Indemnifying Party, subject to any right of the Indemnifying Party to seek reimbursement for the costs of such defense in the event that it is determined that Indemnifying Party had no obligation to indemnify the Indemnified Party for such claim or loss. The Indemnifying Party will have exclusive right to control and conduct the defense and settlement of any claims or losses for which it has given notice of acceptance of the duty

to defend, subject to consultation with the Indemnified Party. The Indemnifying Party will not be liable for any settlement by the Indemnified Party unless such Indemnifying Party has approved such settlement in advance and agrees to be bound by the agreement incorporating such settlement. An Indemnified Party will have the right to refuse a compromise or settlement and, at such refusing Party's cost, to take over such defense; provided that in such event the Indemnifying Party will not be responsible for, nor will it be obligated to indemnify the Indemnified Party against, any cost or liability in excess of such refused compromise or settlement. With respect to any defense accepted by the Indemnifying Party, the relevant Indemnified Party will be entitled to participate with the Indemnifying Party in such defense if the claim or loss requests equitable relief or other relief that could affect the rights of the Indemnified Party and also will be entitled to employ separate counsel for such defense at such Indemnified Party's expense. If the Indemnifying Party does not accept the defense of any indemnified claim or loss as provided above, the Indemnified Party will have the right to employ counsel for such defense at the expense of the Indemnifying Party. Each Party agrees to cooperate and to cause its employees and agents to cooperate with the other Party in the defense of any such claim or loss, and the relevant records of each Party will be made available to the other Party with respect to any such defense.

## **11.0 LIMITATION OF LIABILITY**

- 11.1 Limited Responsibility.** Each Party shall be responsible only for service(s) and facility(ies) that are provided by that Party, its authorized agents, subcontractors, or others retained by such Party, and neither Party shall bear any responsibility for the services and facilities provided by the other Party, its Affiliates, agents, subcontractors, or other persons retained by such Parties. No Party shall be liable for any act or omission of another Telecommunications Carrier (other than an Affiliate) providing a portion of a service.
- 11.2 Apportionment of Fault.** In the case of any loss arising from the negligence or willful misconduct, each Party shall bear, and its obligation shall be limited to, that portion of the loss and resulting expense caused by its negligence or misconduct or the negligence or misconduct of such Party's Affiliates, agents, or contractors or other persons acting in concert with it.
- 11.3 Limitation of Damages.** In no event will either Party have any liability whatsoever to the other Party for any indirect, special, consequential, incidental or punitive damages, including loss of anticipated profits or revenue in connection with or arising from anything said, omitted or done hereunder (collectively, "Consequential Damages"), even if the other Party has been advised of the possibility of such damages; provided that the foregoing will not limit (i) a Party's obligation under Section 10 to indemnify, defend and hold the other Party harmless against any amounts payable to a third person, including any losses, costs, fines, penalties, criminal or civil judgments or settlements, expenses (including reasonable attorneys' fees) and Consequential Damages of such third person. Except to the extent of a Party's willful misconduct or gross negligence, in no event, will either Party's liability to the other Party be greater than six (6) months of payments made to the other Party under this Agreement from the date such claim is first made.
- 11.4 Force Majeure.** Neither Party shall be liable for any delay or failure in performance of any part of this Agreement from any cause beyond its control and without its fault or



negligence including, without limitation, acts of nature, acts of civil or military authority, government regulations, embargoes, epidemics, terrorist acts, riots, insurrections, fires, explosions, earthquakes, nuclear accidents, floods, work stoppages, equipment failures, power failures, volcanic action, other major environmental disturbances, unusually severe weather conditions, inability to secure products or services of other persons or transportation facilities or acts or omissions of transportation carriers (individually or collectively a “Force Majeure Event”).

**11.4.1** If a Force Majeure Event should occur, the Party affected shall give prompt notice to the other Party of such Force Majeure Event specifying the nature, date of inception and expected duration of such Force Majeure Event, whereupon such obligation or performance shall be suspended to the extent such Party is affected by such Force Majeure Event during the continuance thereof or be excused from such performance depending on the nature, severity and duration of such Force Majeure Event (and the other Party shall likewise be excused from performance of its obligations to the extent such Party’s obligations are dependent upon the performance so interfered with). In the event of such delay, the delayed Party shall perform its obligations at a performance level no less than that which it uses for its own operations. In the event of such performance delay or failure the delayed Party agrees to resume performance in a nondiscriminatory manner and not favor its own provision of Telecommunications Services above that of the affected Party. The affected Party shall use its reasonable efforts to avoid or remove the cause of nonperformance and the Parties shall give like notice and proceed to perform with dispatch once the causes are removed or cease. Notwithstanding the preceding, no delay or other failure to perform shall be excused pursuant to this Section: (i) by the acts or omissions of a Party’s subcontractors, suppliers or other third persons providing products or services to such Party unless such acts or omissions are themselves the product of a Force Majeure Event, and unless such delay or failure and the consequences thereof are beyond the control and without the fault or negligence of the Party claiming excusable delay or other failure to perform, or (ii) if such Party fails to implement any steps taken to mitigate the effects of a Force Majeure Event (e.g. disaster recovery plans) in a nondiscriminatory manner during the period performance is impaired.

**11.4.2** Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, if any delay or non-performance described herein exceeds thirty (30) calendar days, the Party owed such performance will have the right (but not the obligation) to terminate this Agreement without penalty or liability, other than amounts owed as of the date of termination. Such termination must be in writing.

## **12.0 DISCLAIMER OF REPRESENTATION AND WARRANTIES**

**EXCEPT AS EXPRESSLY PROVIDED UNDER THIS AGREEMENT, NO PARTY MAKES OR RECEIVES ANY WARRANTY, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, WITH RESPECT TO THE SERVICES, FUNCTIONS AND PRODUCTS IT PROVIDES OR IS CONTEMPLATED TO PROVIDE UNDER THIS AGREEMENT AND THE**

**PARTIES DISCLAIM THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND/OR OF FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. ADDITIONALLY, NEITHER PARTY ASSUMES ANY RESPONSIBILITY WITH REGARD TO THE CORRECTNESS OF DATA OR INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY THE OTHER PARTY WHEN THIS DATA OR INFORMATION IS ACCESSED AND USED BY A THIRD-PARTY.**

### **13.0 REGULATORY APPROVAL**

- 13.1 Commission Approval.** The Parties understand and agree that this Agreement will be filed with the Commission and may thereafter be filed with the FCC. USCC authorizes Richland-Grant to file a copy of the Agreement with the Commission on USCC's behalf. USCC authorizes Tech Com to file a copy of this Agreement with the Commission on USCC's behalf. Each Party covenants and agrees to fully support approval without modification of this Agreement by the Commission or the FCC under Section 252 of the Act. If the Commission or the FCC rejects any portion of this Agreement, the Parties agree to meet and negotiate in good faith to arrive at a mutually acceptable modification of the rejected portion of the Agreement; provided that such rejected portion shall not affect the validity of the remainder of this Agreement. The Parties acknowledge that nothing in this Agreement shall limit a Party's ability, independent of such Party's agreement to support and participate in the approval of this Agreement, to assert public policy issues relating to the Act.
- 13.2 Regulatory Changes.** If any final and nonappealable legislative, regulatory, judicial or other legal action materially affects the ability of a Party to perform any material obligation under this Agreement, a Party may, on thirty (30) days written notice (delivered not later than thirty (30) days following the date on which such action has become legally binding and has otherwise become final and unappealable) to the other Party require that the affected provision(s) be renegotiated and the Parties shall renegotiate in good faith such mutually acceptable new provision(s) as may be required; provided that such affected provisions shall not affect the validity of the remainder of this Agreement. If such provisions are not renegotiated within thirty (30) days after such notice, either Party may petition for arbitration pursuant to §252 of the Act.
- 13.3 Amendment or Other Changes to the Act: Reservation of Rights.** The Parties acknowledge that the respective rights and obligations of each Party as set forth in this Agreement are based on the text of the Act and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder by the FCC and the Commission as of the Effective Date. In the event of any amendment of the Act, or any final and nonappealable legislative, regulatory, judicial order, rule or regulation or other legal action that revises or reverses the Act, the FCC's First Report and Order in CC Docket Nos. 96-98 and 95-185 or any applicable Commission order purporting to apply the provisions of the Act occurring after the Effective Date (individually and collectively, an "Amendment to the Act"), either Party may by providing written notice to the other Party require that the affected provisions be renegotiated and amended accordingly to reflect the terms and conditions of each such Amendment to the Act relating to any of the provisions in this Agreement. If such Amendment to the Act affects any pricing, rates or charges of the services provided under

this Agreement, the Parties agree to mutually negotiate such prices, rates or charges for the service. If such new provisions are not renegotiated within thirty (30) days after such notice, either Party may petition for arbitration pursuant to §252 of the Act. Except as otherwise provided for in this section 13.3 and section 14.0, neither Party waives any rights it might have under the Act and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder by the FCC and/or the Commission.

## **14.0 DISPUTE ESCALATION AND RESOLUTION**

**14.1 Procedures.** Unless, otherwise provided herein, any dispute, controversy or claim (individually and collectively, a “Dispute”) arising under this Agreement shall be resolved in accordance with the procedures set forth in this Section 14.0. If the Parties are unable to resolve issues related to a Dispute within ninety (90) days after the Parties’ appointment of designated representatives, a Party may (i) bring an action in an appropriate Federal district court, (ii) file a complaint with the FCC pursuant to Section 207 or 208 of the Act, (iii) seek a declaratory ruling from the FCC, (iv) file a complaint in accordance with the rules, guidelines and regulations of the Commission or (v) seek other relief under Applicable Law.

### **14.2 Billing and Payment; Disputed Amounts**

**14.2.1** As provided in Appendix B, RGTC shall invoice USCC on a monthly basis. USCC shall pay any undisputed amounts, in immediately available U.S. funds, within thirty (30) days from the receipt of the invoice. All invoices shall be deemed received five (5) business days after the date of mailing.

**14.2.2** Neither Party will bill the other Party for previously unbilled charges for Services provided for more than one year prior to the current billing receipt date.

**14.2.3** RGTC shall compensate USCC for Telecommunications Traffic, subject to Reciprocal Compensation, as provided in Section 5.1, that is delivered by RGTC to USCC for termination to USCC’s end users, over the two-way direct trunk groups, as prescribed and at the rates and InterMTA Traffic Factors as provided in Appendix B. USCC will compensate RGTC for Telecommunications Traffic, subject to Reciprocal Compensation, as provided in Section 5.1, that is delivered to RGTC for termination to RGTC’s end users, as prescribed and at the rates and traffic factors provided in Appendix B, and for traffic not subject to Reciprocal Compensation exchanged between USCC and RGTC, as prescribed and at the rates provided in Section 5.6.

**14.2.4** RGTC shall prepare a monthly billing statement to USCC which will reflect the calculation of net Reciprocal Compensation, as provided in Section 5.1 and Appendix B, VII, InterMTA Traffic Compensation as provided in Section 5.6 and Tandem Transiting Traffic as provided in Section 5.5 due RGTC.

**14.2.5** In the event that a billing dispute occurs concerning any charges billed to one Party by the other Party, the billed Party must submit, in writing, a

documented claim for the disputed amount. The billed Party will submit all documentation as may reasonably be required to support the claim. Such documentation and claim shall jointly constitute the basis for the formal dispute. All formal disputes must be submitted to the billing Party within one hundred and eighty (180) days of receipt of the invoice for the billed services. However, when payment of disputed charges is withheld by the billed Party, the billed Party shall submit a formal dispute within forty-five (45) days of the receipt of the invoice for the billed services. If any undisputed amount due on the bill is not received by the billing Party before the amount becomes delinquent, the billing Party may charge, and the billed Party agrees to pay, interest on the past due balance at a rate equal to the lesser of one percent (1%) per month or the maximum nonusurious rate of interest under Applicable Law. Late payment charges shall be included on a subsequent invoice.

**14.2.6** If the dispute is resolved in favor of the billed Party, the billed Party will be credited by the billing Party with interest on any disputed amounts as have been paid by the billed Party at the rate of one percent (1%) per month, prorated from the date the billing Party received payment up to and including the date of refund. If the dispute is resolved in favor of the billing Party any payments withheld by the billed Party pending settlement of the disputed amount shall be paid in full with the next subsequent bill invoice after resolution, plus interest at the rate of one percent (1%) per month, prorated from the original payment due date up to and including the date of payment.

**14.2.7** If any continuing billing dispute between the Parties is not resolved within sixty (60) days after receipt of the formal dispute by the billing Party, or fifteen (15) days after receipt by the billing Party of the formal dispute where payment is withheld pursuant to Section 14.2.5 above, after reasonable attempts by the billed Party representative and the billing Party representative, the dispute will be referred to the respective executive responsible for each Party's respective obligations under this Agreement. The executives will negotiate in good faith to resolve the dispute informally within an additional fifteen (15) days. If the Parties are unable to resolve issues related to a Dispute within the process described above, a Party may (i) bring an action in an appropriate Federal district court, (ii) file a complaint with the FCC pursuant to Section 207 or 208 of the Act, (iii) seek a declaratory ruling from the FCC, (iv) file a complaint in accordance with the rules, guidelines and regulations of the Commission or (v) seek other relief under Applicable Law. During the course of such negotiations, all reasonable requests made by one Party to the other for information will be honored. Both Parties shall continue performing their respective obligations under this Agreement while the dispute is being resolved, except to the extent that such obligations are in dispute, unless and until this Agreement expires or is terminated in accordance with its terms.

**14.2.8** The Parties agree that all negotiations pursuant to this subsection 14.2 shall remain confidential and shall be treated as compromise and settlement negotiations for purposes of the Federal Rules of Evidence and state rules of evidence.

**14.2.9** Any undisputed amounts not paid when due shall accrue interest from the date such amounts were due at the lesser of (i) one percent (1%) per month or (ii) the highest rate of interest that may be charged under Applicable Law.

### **14.3 Auditing Procedures**

**14.3.1** Upon thirty (30) days written notice, each Party must provide the other Party the ability and opportunity to conduct an annual audit to ensure the proper billing of traffic between the Parties. The audit shall be accomplished during normal business hours, at an office designated by the Party being audited. Audits may be performed by an independent third party paid for by the Party requesting the Audit. Audit requests shall not be submitted more frequently than one (1) time per calendar year.

**14.3.2** Each Party may request copies of the relevant billing records thereof provided that the requested records do not exceed 12 months in age from the date the monthly bill containing said record information was issued.

**14.3.3** All information provided to the requesting Party under section 14.3.2 shall be treated as Confidential Information as provided in Section 15.4.

## **15.0 MISCELLANEOUS**

### **15.1 Authorization**

**15.1.1** RGTC is a corporation duly organized, validly existing and in good standing under the laws of the State of Wisconsin and has full power and authority to execute and deliver this Agreement and to perform its obligations hereunder, subject to necessary regulatory approval.

**15.1.2** USCC is a corporation duly organized, validly existing and in good standing under the laws of the State of Delaware, is validly registered to do business in the State of Wisconsin and has full power and authority to execute and deliver this Agreement and to perform its obligations hereunder, subject to necessary regulatory approval.

**15.2 Compliance.** Each Party shall comply with all federal, state, and local laws, rules, regulations or orders, applicable to its performance under this Agreement.

**15.3 Independent Contractors.** Neither this Agreement, nor any actions taken by RGTC or USCC in compliance with this Agreement, shall be deemed to create an agency or joint venture relationship. Neither this Agreement, nor any actions taken by RGTC or USCC in compliance with this Agreement, shall create a contractual, agency or any other type of relationship or third party liability between RGTC or USCC and end users or others.

### **15.4 Confidentiality**

**15.4.1** Any information such as specifications, drawings, sketches, business information, forecasts, models, samples, data, computer programs and other software and documentation of one Party (a Disclosing Party) that is furnished or made available or otherwise disclosed to the other Party or any of its employees, contractors, agents (its “Representatives” and with a Party, a “Receiving Party”) pursuant to this Agreement (“Proprietary Information”) shall be deemed the property of the Disclosing Party. Proprietary Information, if written, shall be marked “Confidential” or “Proprietary” or by other similar notice, and, if oral or visual, shall be confirmed in writing as confidential by the Disclosing Party to the Receiving Party within ten (10) days after disclosure. Unless Proprietary Information was previously known by the Receiving Party free of any obligation to keep it confidential, or has been or is subsequently made public by an act not attributable to the Receiving Party, or is explicitly agreed in writing not to be regarded as confidential, it (i) shall be held in confidence by each Receiving Party; (ii) shall be disclosed to only those persons who have need for it in connection with the provision of services required to fulfill this Agreement and shall be used only for such purposes; and (iii) may be used for other purposes only upon such terms and conditions as may be mutually agreed to in advance of use in writing by the Parties. Notwithstanding the foregoing sentence, a Receiving Party shall be entitled to disclose or provide Proprietary Information as required by any governmental authority or applicable law only in accordance with Section 15.4.2 of this Agreement.

**15.4.2** If any Receiving Party is required by any governmental authority or by Applicable Law to disclose any Proprietary Information, such Receiving Party shall provide the Disclosing Party with written notice of such requirement as soon as possible and prior to such disclosure. The Disclosing Party may seek appropriate protective relief from all or part of such requirement or if it fails to successfully do so, the Receiving Party may comply with the requirement. The Receiving Party shall not interfere with the Disclosing Party’s efforts to obtain any protective relief, that such Disclosing Party chooses to obtain.

**15.4.3** In the event of the expiration or termination of this Agreement for any reason whatsoever, each Party shall return to the other Party or destroy all Proprietary Information and other documents, work papers and other material (including all copies thereof) obtained from the other Party in connection with this Agreement and shall use all reasonable efforts, including instructing its employees and others who have had access to such information, to keep confidential and not to use any such information, unless such information is now, or is hereafter disclosed, through no act, omission or fault of such Party, in any manner making it available to the general public. Proprietary Information required to be returned, does not include invoices or supporting detail related to charges for exchange of traffic.

**15.5 Governing Law.** For all claims under this Agreement that are based upon issues within the jurisdiction (primary or otherwise) of the FCC, the exclusive jurisdiction and remedy for all such claims shall be as provided for by the FCC and the Act. For all claims under this Agreement that are based upon issues within the jurisdiction (primary or otherwise) of the

Commission, the exclusive jurisdiction for all such claims shall be with the Commission. In all other respects, this Agreement shall be governed by the domestic laws of the State of Wisconsin without reference to conflict of law provisions. The terms and conditions of this Agreement shall be subject to any and all Applicable Laws, rules, regulations or guidelines that subsequently may be adopted by any federal, state, or local government authority. Any modifications to this Agreement occasioned by such change shall be effected through good faith negotiations.

- 15.6 Taxes.** Each Party purchasing services hereunder shall pay or otherwise be responsible for all federal, state, or local sales, property, use, excise, gross receipts, transaction or similar taxes, fees or surcharges levied against or upon such purchasing Party (or the providing Party when such providing Party is permitted to pass along to the purchasing Party such taxes, fees or surcharges), except for any tax on either Party's corporate existence, status or income. Whenever possible, these amounts shall be billed as a separate item on the invoice. To the extent a sale is claimed to be for resale tax exemption, the purchasing Party shall furnish the providing Party a proper resale tax exemption certificate as authorized or required by statute or regulation by the jurisdiction providing said resale tax exemption. Failure to timely provide said resale tax exemption certificate within forty-five (45) days upon written request by RGTC to USCC will result in no exemption being available to the purchasing Party.
- 15.7 Assignment.** Neither Party may assign or transfer (whether by operation of law or otherwise this Agreement or any rights or obligations hereunder) to a third party without the prior written consent of the other Party which consent will not be unreasonably withheld; provided that either Party may assign this Agreement to a corporate Affiliate or an entity under its common control or an entity acquiring all or substantially all of its assets or equity by providing prior written notice to the other Party of such assignment or transfer. Any attempted assignment or transfer that is not permitted is void ab initio. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, this Agreement shall be binding upon and shall inure to the benefit of the Parties' respective successors and assigns.
- 15.8 Non-Waiver.** Failure of either Party to insist on performance of any term or condition of this Agreement or to exercise any right or privilege hereunder shall not be construed as a continuing or future waiver of such term, condition, right or privilege. Richland-Grant certifies it is a Rural Telephone Company and is entitled to all rights afforded Rural Telephone Companies under the Act including, but not limited to, exemptions, suspensions, and modifications under 47 USC 251(f). This Agreement does not affect, and Richland-Grant does not waive, any rights including, but not limited to, the rights afforded Richland-Grant under 47 USC 251 (f). Similarly this Agreement does not affect, and USCC does not concede or waive its right to challenge any aspect of the prior two sentences.
- 15.9 Notices.** Notices given by one Party to the other Party under this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be (i) delivered personally, (ii) delivered by express delivery service, (iii) mailed, certified mail or first class U.S. mail postage prepaid, return receipt requested or (iv) delivered by telecopy to the following addresses of the Parties:

Contract Notices:





24 Hour Network Management Contact:

For RGTC:

Contact Number: (608) 537-2463

For USCC:

Contact Number: (224) 653-3101

**15.10.2** Before either Party reports a trouble condition, it must first use its reasonable efforts to isolate the trouble to the other Party's facilities, services and arrangement. Each Party will advise the other of any critical nature of the inoperative facilities, service, and arrangements and any need for expedited clearance of trouble. In cases where a Party has indicated the essential or critical need for restoration of the facilities, services or arrangements, the other Party shall use its best efforts to expedite the clearance of trouble.

**15.11** Publicity and Use of Trademarks or Service Marks. Neither Party nor its subcontractors or agents shall use the other Party's trademarks, service marks, logos or other proprietary trade dress in any advertising, press releases, publicity matters or other promotional materials without the other Party's prior written consent.

**15.12** Compliance with Law. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed as requiring or permitting either Party to violate any requirement of Applicable Law.

**15.13** Joint Work Product. This Agreement is the joint work product of the Parties and has been negotiated by the Parties and shall be fairly interpreted in accordance with its terms. In the event of any ambiguities, no inferences shall be drawn against either Party.

**15.14** No Third Party Beneficiaries: Disclaimer of Agency. This Agreement is for the sole benefit of the Parties and their permitted assigns, and nothing herein expressed or implied shall create or be construed to create any third-party beneficiary rights hereunder. Except for provisions herein expressly authorizing a Party to act for another, nothing in this Agreement shall constitute a Party as a legal representative or agent of the other Party, nor shall a Party have the right or authority to assume, create or incur any liability or any obligation of any kind, express or implied, against or in the name of or on behalf of the other Party unless otherwise expressly permitted by such other Party. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this Agreement, no Party undertakes to perform any obligation of the other Party, whether regulatory or contractual, or to assume any responsibility for the management of the other Party's business.

**15.15** No License. No license under patents, copyrights, or any other intellectual property right (other than the limited license to use consistent with the terms, conditions and restrictions of this Agreement) is granted by either Party or shall be implied or arise by estoppel with respect to any transactions contemplated under this Agreement.

**15.16** Technology Upgrades. Nothing in this Agreement shall limit either Party's ability to upgrade its network through the incorporation of new equipment, new software or otherwise. Each Party shall provide the other Party written notice at least ninety (90) days

prior to the incorporation of any such upgrade in its network which will materially impact service or such other period as presented by applicable FCC or Commission rule. Each Party shall be solely responsible for the cost and effort of accommodating such changes in its own network.

**15.17** Severability. If any provision of this Agreement is held by a court or regulatory agency of competent jurisdiction to be unenforceable, the rest of the Agreement shall remain in full force and effect and shall not be affected unless removal of that provision results, in the opinion of either Party, in a material change to this Agreement. If a material change as described in this paragraph occurs as a result of action by a court or regulatory agency, the Parties shall negotiate in good faith for replacement language, to the extent, without materially altering the economic effect of this Agreement on either Party as stated in Section 13.2.

**15.18** Counterparts. This Agreement may be executed in two or more counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original and all of which together shall constitute one and the same instrument.

**15.19** Entire Agreement. The terms contained in this Agreement and any Appendices, tariffs other documents or instruments referred to herein are hereby incorporated into this Agreement by reference as if set forth fully herein and, constitute the entire Agreement between the Parties with respect to the subject matter hereof, superseding all prior understandings, proposals and other communications, oral or written. Neither Party shall be bound by any preprinted terms additional to or different from those in this Agreement that may appear subsequently in the other Party's form documents, purchase orders, quotations, acknowledgments, invoices or other communications. This Agreement may only be modified by a writing signed by an authorized representative of each Party.

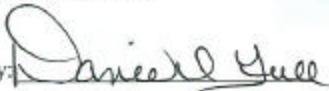
**15.20** Amendments. This Agreement may not be modified or amended other than by a written instrument executed by both Parties. Any amendment, modification or supplement to this Agreement shall be filed with the Commission and approved by the Commission as may be required by Applicable Law.

## **16.0 MOST FAVORED NATION PROVISION.**


**16.1** In accordance with Section 252(i) of the Act, USCC shall be entitled to obtain from RGTC any Interconnection/Compensation arrangement provided by RGTC to any other CMRS carrier that has been filed and approved by the Commission, for services described in such agreement, on the same terms and conditions.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have caused this Agreement and its Appendices to be executed by their duly authorized representatives.

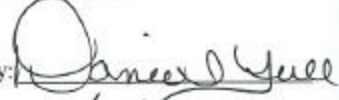
**Richland-Grant Telephone  
Cooperative, Inc.**

By:   
Date: 8/21/07  
Printed: David J. Lull  
Title: General Manager

**United States Cellular Corporation**

By:   
Date: 8/15/07  
Printed: Mike Lienhart  
Title: Sr. Director National Networks

**Tech Com, Inc.**

By:   
Date: 8/21/07  
Printed: DAVID J. Lull  
Title: Operations Manager

## **Appendix A**

### **Interconnection Facilities**

#### **I. Interconnection Facilities**

a. Type-2A Facilities. USCC shall arrange for and maintain Type-2A facilities between the Richland-Grant Tandem Switch in Blue River, WI and the USCC Point of Presence in Madison, Wisconsin (“Interconnection Facilities”).

b. Point of Interconnection For the exchange of Telecommunications Traffic and Tandem Transiting Traffic in accordance with this Agreement, the Parties agree to initially connect forty- eight (48) Trunks using Richland-Gant and LaValle Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (“LaValle”) facilities between the Blue River Tandem and the USCC Point of Presence. The POI will be the actual Mid-Span Meet of Richland-Grant and LaValle facilities at the Richland-Grant exchange boundary located at the V and H coordinates: V5897 & H4006.

#### **II. Dedicated Facilities and Services**

Per Applicable RGTC Interstate Access Tariff on file with the FCC.

#### **III. Shared Facility Factor**

The following Shared Facility Factors will apply to Interconnection Facilities as provided in Section I.b. of this Appendix A, between the Point of Interconnection and the Blue River Tandem.

Mobile to Landline Telecommunications Traffic	0.0%
Landline to Mobile Telecommunications Traffic	100.0%

## Appendix B

### Schedule of Rates and Charges

This Appendix specifies the rates and charges for the Transport and Termination of Telecommunications Traffic delivered by one Party to the network of the other Party, charges for other services pursuant to the Agreement for the Transport and Termination of Telecommunications Traffic, and Tandem Transiting Traffic as follows:

#### **I. Intentionally Left Blank.**

#### **II. Intentionally Left Blank.**

#### **III. Tandem Transiting Traffic Charges.**

Per minute	\$ .005
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Tandem Transiting Traffic compensation is applicable for all USCC originating traffic transiting the Richland-Grant Blue River Tandem switch which terminates to a third party network subtending the Blue River Tandem switch as provided in Appendix C, but excluding interexchange carrier traffic. USCC also assumes responsibility for compensation to the third party which terminates the call.

#### **IV. InterMTA Traffic Factors**

In the event there is insufficient representative and verifiable data to identify the actual InterMTA Traffic exchanged between the Parties to use in preparation of the monthly billing statement, the Parties agree to apply a percent InterMTA Traffic Factor to the RGTC terminated minutes of use as an estimate of the InterMTA Traffic being exchanged. The Parties have developed an initial factor representative of the share of Telecommunications Traffic exchanged that is exempt from Transport and Termination charges. The Parties have agreed upon the InterMTA factor specified below, which represents the percent of the total originating and terminated minutes to be billed access charges by RGTC. The InterMTA Factor will be multiplied by the total Mobile to Landline terminated Telecommunications Traffic minutes recorded each month by the RGTC End Office Switches to determine those minutes to which terminating access rates apply.

- Mobile to Land Traffic

Telecommunications Traffic	100.0%
InterMTA	0.0%
Intrastate	0.0%
Interstate	0.0%
- Land to Mobile Traffic

Telecommunications Traffic	100.0%
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**V. Charges for Access Transport, Access Termination and Access End Office Switching for Exchange Access Service**

RGTC's Access Tariffs in the proper jurisdiction apply.

**VI. Intentionally Left Blank**

**VII. Flat Rate Monthly Compensation for Telecommunications Traffic**

The Parties, having reviewed specific Telecommunications Traffic between USCC and RGTC, agree that each Party will meet its obligation to pay Reciprocal Compensation for Telecommunications Traffic pursuant to Section 251(b)(5) of the Act for Telecommunications Traffic claimed to be due as follows:

- a. USCC will pay Richland-Grant the amount of thirty eight hundred dollars (\$3,800.00) per month. Richland-Grant will remit an invoice to USCC in the amount at the end of the applicable month. This amount is based on specific Telecommunications Traffic patterns between USCC and Richland-Grant. Should the specific Telecommunications Traffic patterns between USCC and Richland-Grant change during the term of this Agreement, the Parties agree to meet to discuss a renegotiation of the compensation amount set forth above. If a conflict arises between the Parties as to the appropriate compensation amount, the Parties agree to utilize the Dispute Resolution provision set forth in Section 14.2 of this Agreement.
- b. USCC will pay Tech Com the amount of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) per month. Tech Com will remit an invoice to USCC in the amount at the end of the applicable month. This amount is based on specific Telecommunications Traffic patterns between USCC and Tech Com. Should the specific Telecommunications Traffic patterns between USCC and Tech Com change during the term of this Agreement, the Parties agree to meet to discuss a renegotiation of the compensation amount set forth above. If a conflict arises between the Parties as to the appropriate compensation amount, the Parties agree to utilize the Dispute Resolution provision set forth in Section 14.2 of this Agreement.
- c. The Flat Rate Monthly Compensation amounts do not include billing for InterMTA Traffic as provided above in Section IV or Tandem Transiting Traffic as provided above in Section III.

## **Appendix C**

### **Networks that Subtend Richland-Grant for Tandem Switch Service**

- Locality
- I. Tech Com, Inc.:
    - Richland Center
  - II LaValle Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
    - LaValle
    - Cazenovia
  - III Cochrane Cooperative Telephone Company
    - Cochrane
    - Waumandee
  - IV Reedsburg Utility Commission
    - Reedsburg

USCC will use its best efforts to negotiate exchange of traffic agreements with all third party carriers included in this Appendix C, for the Termination of Telecommunications Traffic.

The third party networks listed above include all of the Telecommunications Carriers that subtend the Richland-Grant Blue River Tandem switch applicable to this Agreement. When there are additions or deletions to the list above, the Parties agree to provide an updated Appendix C with the change executed by both Parties and made part of this Agreement.